did not make purchases.

— Proper classification of tobacco is necessary. It is desirable for the smooth conduct of auctions and is beneficial for the farmers in getting better prices. If the bundle is of uniform quality, it will fetch a higher price in the auction bidding.

— The interest of the Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers Cooperative Union in getting export orders to Russia has been conveyed to the Russian authorities.

— Tobacco Board has been directed to fix the targets well in advance every year.

— The Tobacco Board Act provides for representation of 6 growers in the Tobacco Board.

— Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is the competent authority for fixing Minimum Prices. CACP fixes MSP for two basic grades of tobacco in consultation with Tobacco Board. Tobacco Board Act provides for purchase of Tobacco by the Board when the auction prices go below the Minimum Support Prices. In the current auctions in Andhra Pradesh, the tobacco prices are much above the MSP and hence, the Board is not required to intervene in in the auctions

Pre-shipment inspections by Export Inspection Council

1931. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of pre-shipment inspections made by the Export Inspection Council during the year 1991-92;

(b) the number of commodities seized by the Council during the said period; and

(c) the number of cases registered and initiated for adjudication proceedings against defaulting manufacturers and exporters, and how many certificates of Inspection, issued by the inspection agencies, were cancelled during the year 1991-92?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Five Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) have been set up under the administrative and technical control of the Export Inspection Council (EIC) for quality control and pre-shipment inspection of commodities notified by the Government under the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963. During 1991-92 the EIAs carried out 90,813 inspections under the Consignment Wise Inspection System and issued 31,919 inspection certificates under the In-process Quality Control (IPQC) System.

(b) The Export Inspection Council did not seize any commodity during the year 1991-92.

(c) Adjudication proceedings were initiated by the EIC during 1991-92 against one merchant-exporter and one manufacturer-exporter under Section 10 K of the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963 as amended in 1984.

Two certificates of inspection issued by EIA-Calcutta were cancelled during this period under Section 7 (3A) of this Act.

Non-upgradation of posts of Joint Chief Controllers of export and import

1932. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2618 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th December, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Joint Chief Controllers have not been upgraded so far;